

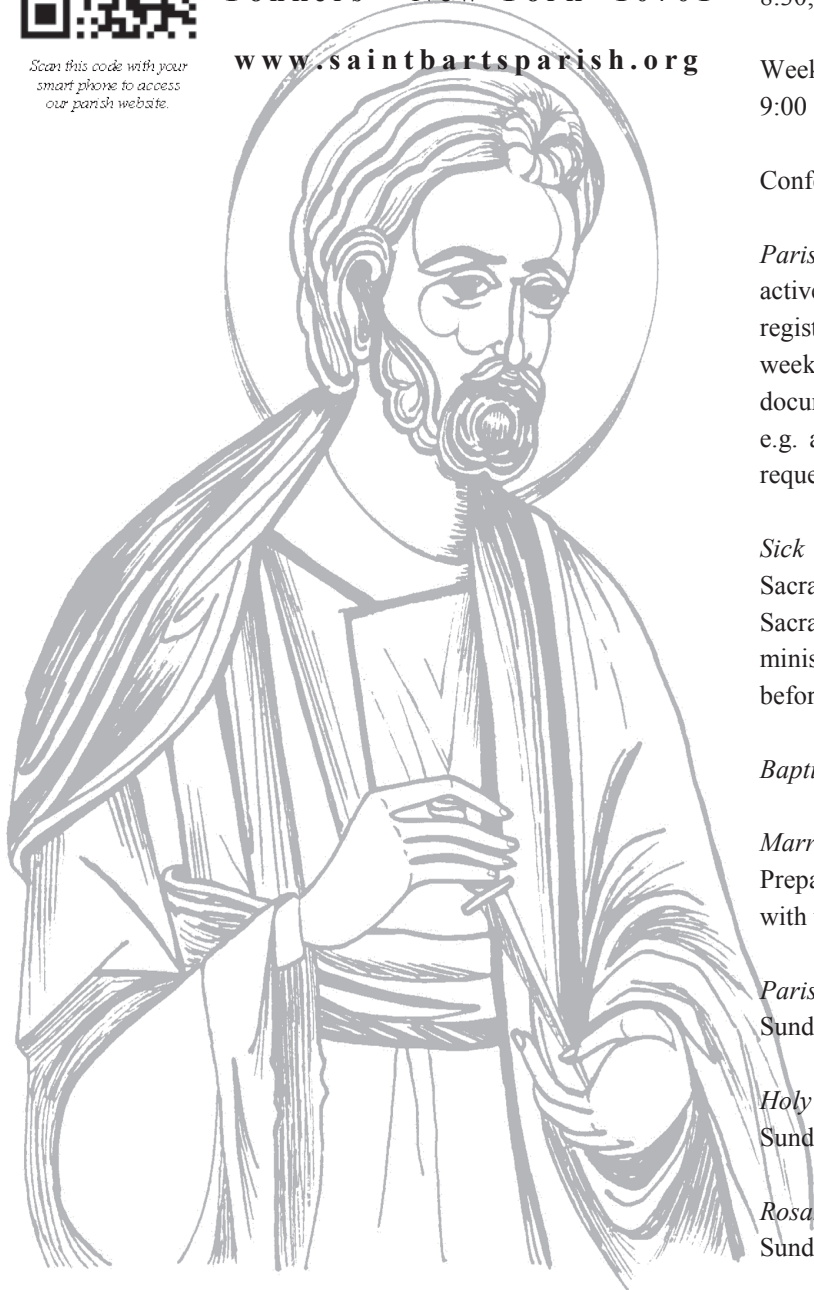
# St. Bartholomew's Church



Scan this code with your  
smart phone to access  
our parish website.

15 Palmer Road  
Yonkers • New York 10701

[www.saintbartsparish.org](http://www.saintbartsparish.org)



*Mission Statement:* We, the members of St. Bartholomew's Parish, will strive to work for a vibrant and loving Eucharistic community. In the spirit of Christ, we commit ourselves to the service of humanity - in our parish, neighborhood, archdiocese and the universal Church. We will strive to enrich our community spiritually, pastorally and socially, and to be a family of worship and prayer for all.

Rev. Raphael Ezeh, MSP, *Pastor*  
Deacon Robert A. Clemens  
Cheryl Duda, *Religious Education Coordinator*  
Erika Podoprigora, *Organist and Music Director*

Rectory/Parish Office : (914) 965-0566  
Religious Education Office: (914) 476-6676

Sunday Masses: 5:00 p.m. on Saturday;  
8:30, 10:00, 11:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Weekday Masses: 7:00 a.m. & 9:00 a.m. Monday through Friday;  
9:00 a.m. Saturday.

Confessions: Saturdays 4:00 to 4:45 p.m.

*Parish Membership:* Every family and single adult to be considered active members of St. Bartholomew's Parish must be properly registered in the parish, receiving and regularly using the parish weekly donation envelopes. Only in this way can the parish issue documents attesting to parish membership and Catholic practice, e.g. a letter to be a Godparent or Sponsor. New parishioners are requested to visit the parish office.

*Sick & Shut-ins:* The priests are available to administer the Sacraments to those who are unable to come to Church. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is part of the healing ministry of the Church, and should be received early in an illness or before a serious operation.

*Baptisms:* Please call the parish office to make arrangements.

*Marriages:* In order to provide sufficient time for the Marriage Preparation Course, please call the parish office and ask to speak with the pastor at least six months in advance of the wedding.

*Parish Council:* Meets on the Monday evening after the third Sunday of the month. Chairperson: Richard Califano

*Holy Name Society:* Meets on the Monday evening after the second Sunday of the month. President, Dan Panik

*Rosary Altar Society:* Meets on the Monday evening after the first Sunday of the month. Co-Presidents, Carolyn Mesler, Frances Raffa

*Bereavement Ministry:* For information call (914) 965-0566,  
Tina Falcone

*Trustees:* Catherine Hickey, Aureo Pinto

## SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION:

## OF PROPHETS AND LISTENERS

## Pastor's COLUMN

"Don't let anyone mislead you, for many will come in My name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and saying, 'The time has come!' But don't believe them" (Luke 21:8).

More in Nigeria than here in the US, many wake up from bad dreams and decide that God has called them to be His mouthpiece. They deceive and lead many gullible Christians astray. David Koresh (Branch Davidians of Waco, Texas) comes to mind. But while outlandish claims of speaking for God may be rare in our society, many are still led astray by both those who say they speak for God and those who say they have nothing to do with God.

In our first reading today (Deuteronomy 18:15-20) Moses encouraged the Israelites to be careful who they listened to, and once they found out that the one they listen to spoke God's words, they must indeed listen and obey. That's no easy task then or now.

What voices do you listen to? Deuteronomy 18:10 warns against consulting fortune tellers and soothsayers, consulting ghosts or spirits, casting of spells, horoscope, etc. Nowadays, we hear of the increasing number of youth (and even adults) who dabble in all these negative forces out of boredom and curiosity. And the effects will remain long after the boredom and curiosity wear off. We reap the fruits we sow. Sadly, many listen to these negative voices that lead them astray and turn deaf ears to the voices that will lead them to safety and to God.

May we, like Moses, be true messengers of God – yes, priests and nuns are not the only ones who speak the word of God; we all do so in different ways. And may we who listen, be guided by God's wisdom and the spirit of discernment; and may we heed the true prophets of God. Amen.

### ARRIVAL OF OUR NEW ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Fr. Anthony Mbanefo, MSP, our new Associate Pastor, arrives this week.



Associate  
Pastor

His appointment is effective February 1, 2015. I know we're curious about who he is and what he's been doing since his ordination. Here's a little info on him, while we await his arrival. You'll be hearing more from the horse's mouth when he arrives. He was ordained on July 1, 1992 at our seminary in Nigeria. After the normal one-year pastoral experience, he was assigned to our Formation House in Nigeria for a year. He was then assigned to our Gambian mission in 1994. In 2005 he was assigned to the USA Region. He worked with one of our priests in Beaumont Diocese for one year before being assigned to Austin Diocese. He's coming to us from the Diocese of Savannah, Georgia. Coincidentally, Fr. Daniel will be taking over from him.

From personal experience, Fr. Anthony is a sincere, humble and spiritual priest, among other things. He has a strong pastoral zeal and cares for people. He has written some spiritual books and articles, including *The Wisdom of the Cross* and *The Seven Words on the Cross*. Fr. Anthony speaks Spanish fluently. Every priest, in his own unique way, enriches the parish he's sent to work with and helps build God's people up. I'm confident that Fr. Anthony's coming will enrich St. Bart's as a parish and enrich the lives of our parishioners.

~ Father Raphael Ezeh, MSP

## PARISH NEWS



This **Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>**, is the Feast of the **Presentation of the Lord**. It was ancient Jewish custom that on the 40<sup>th</sup> day after childbirth, parents brought their infant to the Temple to present the child to the Lord and to purify the mother. Luke's gospel highlights the role of Simeon and Anna, two righteous Jews who recognized Jesus as the long-awaited

Messiah and praised God for being able to see and experience such a marvel in their lifetimes.

Simeon's prayer concerning the special role of Jesus states that Jesus is "a light for revelation to the Gentiles." This phrase eventually originated the custom of blessing candles on this day which were to be used in the ceremonies, rituals, and processions throughout the church year. Thus, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, is also known as Candlemas Day. There will be a candle procession at the beginning of our 9 a.m. Mass this Monday. You may bring candles for home devotions to be blessed.

**ST. BLAISE'S FEAST DAY:** This Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, is the Feast of St. Blaise. We will have the **Blessing of Throats** only during the 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. Masses.



The **ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY** meeting will be held this Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. in the McManus Parish Center. All women of the Parish are invited.

**SHARING COMMUNITY MEAL:** This Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, we will be providing our Sharing Community Meal. Please bring your ziti or dessert to the Rectory. Doors will open at 6:45 a.m. The Sharing Community truly appreciates our efforts. For more information, please call the Parish Office.



### CALLING ALL SENIORS! CALLING ALL SENIORS!

**Join fellow seniors for a Mass and Gathering  
Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup>**

9 a.m. Mass with a Special Blessing, followed by light refreshments and gathering at the McManus Parish Center.



**ADORATION & HOLY HOUR:** This Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, is First Friday. We will have our Friday Adoration, beginning at 9:30 a.m., ending at 7 p.m. Our monthly Friday Holy Hour will be held at 1 p.m. This Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, the Divine Mercy Holy Hour will begin at 3 p.m. All are invited to spare an hour and come to adore Jesus Christ Who is truly present in the Holy Eucharist.

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS: AN INTERFAITH RESPONSE**  
January 26<sup>th</sup> – February 2<sup>nd</sup>



Catholic Charities is once again running its *Feeding Our Neighbors Campaign* to restock the food pantries and soup kitchens of the Archdiocese of New York. Our parish along with the other parishes and Catholic schools in the New York Archdiocese will be joined this year by the United Jewish Appeal Federation (UJA); we are asked to make a special effort to feed our hungry neighbors.

Our donations will support our Food Pantry, as well as other food pantries; and once again our Social Ministry Committee will organize, tally, and report our donations to Catholic Charities. Thank you for doing your part to make this Campaign a success!

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Our Parish is planning a **Sweepstakes Social on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**, doors open at 6 p.m. The Sweepstakes Social Committee can use your donations and your help! Please start collecting new appropriate items to be dropped off as early as the beginning of February. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with this fundraiser is asked to leave their name and phone number at the Parish Office during the week.

Our newly formed **Fund Raising Committee** has started selling chances to win a second set of *100 five dollar New York Lottery Scratch-Offs*. You know those 100 *scratch-offs* have to contain some winners!



The winner of the first set of tickets purchased multiple chances and still more than doubled her investment.

There are only 200 of the \$10 chances to win the *scratch-offs*. They will be sold after all Saturday night and Sunday Masses, as well as in the Parish Office during the week. The drawing for the winner of our second set of *100 scratch-off tickets* is scheduled for Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, following the 10 a.m. Mass.



The **ALTAR BREAD & ALTAR WINE** donated for this week in loving memory of Carmine Nicholas Maccia by Margaret Maccia & Karen Maccia McKenna.

The **YOUTH GROUP** meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass in the school building. There will be a meeting this Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. All youths age 13 and up are invited.



**MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA:** Held after the 9 a.m. Mass on Mondays.

**RECITATION OF THE ROSARY:** Join your fellow parishioners in praying the Rosary after the 9 a.m. Mass on weekdays and Saturdays.



**TITHING – GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING**  
*Last Weekend's Contribution Comparison*

|              | 1/26/14           | 1/25/15           | Difference        |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Adults       | \$5,067.60        | \$4,785.15        | -\$ 282.45        |
| Children     | \$ 115.65         | \$ 155.50         | +\$ 39.85         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$5,183.25</b> | <b>\$4,940.65</b> | <b>-\$ 242.60</b> |

*Next weekend we will take up a second collection to cover the expenses "old man winter" brings for snow removal and salting of our parking lot and walkways. Please be as generous as possible.*



Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Ethel Thomas, Aldina Pereira, Rebecca Conroy, Andy DeFabritis, Maria Marte, Rosalie Heit, Florence B. Swetz, Clare Yaskovic, Deacon James Byrnes, Andrea Objay, Carmen Torres, Frank Marra, Deacon Patrick Troy, Josephine Apuzzo, Gary Roth, Joyann Allan, Lois Burton, Mary DeStefano, Mark Cianfaglione, Shawn Colon, Margaret Maccia, Nicole Ryan Betancourt, Anthony Spinner, Audrey Falcone, Kathleen Hayes, Marge Muraik, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Louis Petruolo, Cynthia Swiatkowicz, Jimmy Maimone, Roseanne Mercandetti, Louis Brusco, Josephine Daniele, Jennifer Dorsey, Valerie Riccardi, Fatima Panik, Marian Fletcher, Anna Bonacci, Minerva Hernandez, Paula Parente, Bridget O'Malley, Gerald Mazzerese, Jr., Patricia Keane, Carol Stola, Karen Aprea, Stephen Sarich, Neil Cawley, Barbara McCormack, Josephine Lehotyak, Lawrence Girsch, Fran Romano, Joe Forlini, Rosemarie Petti, Marie Murtha, Mary Walsh, Natalie Marrero, Richard Meyers, Carlo Gentile, Angelo Gianfrancesco, Vince Delgado, Charles Wighton, Michael Tomanelli, Steven Colon, Louis Loscalzo, Gina Obalde, Ann Lackner, Ariella Castillo, Brian Detz, John Marietti, Dominick Gravino, Angelica Blanco and Joseph Melillo.

**REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES, LIVING AND DEAD**

The Mass Book for 2015 is open and has availability. Consider giving a loved one the graces associated with having a Mass offered on their behalf. Also, you may consider offering the Altar flowers, Altar bread and wine, Altar candles, or lighting the Sanctuary lamp for a week for your intention. Come to the Rectory Office, **Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.** to make arrangements or to inquire about a particular date.

**MARK THIS DATE**



**ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY**  
**LENTEN RETREAT**

**Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

The theme of this Lenten Retreat is *The Women of Lent*. The \$25 fee includes a light breakfast and lunch. For information or reservations, please call Fran (914 963-1620) or Carolyn (914 963-2622). All women of the parish are invited to participate.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, January 31 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Stephen Hickey +

Sunday, February 1

8:30 AM Leonore Erb +

10:00 AM Tessie Fontanello +

11:30 AM Martha Cianfaglione +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Monday, February 2

Presentation of the Lord

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Anna Brucculeri +

Tuesday, February 3

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Carmine Nicholas Maccia +

Wednesday, February 4

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Christian Anthony "Sonny" Carretta +

Thursday, February 5

Saint Agatha, Virgin & Martyr

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Daniel P. DeRosa +

Friday, February 6

Saint Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Amada Ortiz +

Saturday, February 7

Weekday

9:00 AM Michael Desimone +

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Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, February 7 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM George Goresen +

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Sunday, February 8

8:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

10:00 AM Gino & Ann Coniglio +

11:30 AM Frank & Carmela Legio +

5:00 PM Felix Vazquez & Jose Romero +



**FEBRUARY 1, 2015**

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**WELCOME TO OUR PARISH FAMILY!**



Our warmest welcome to our visitors! We are glad you came to celebrate the Eucharist with us today. We thank God for you! Do not hesitate to let us know how we may serve you.

Every family and single adult to be considered an active parishioner of St. Bartholomew's Parish must be properly registered in the Parish, receiving and regularly using the Parish Weekly Collection Envelopes. Only in this way can the Pastor issue documents attesting to Catholic practice of the faith and Parish membership, e.g. a letter to be a Godparent or Sponsor. For further information call the Parish Office at 914-965-0566.

If you have not registered or need to correct some of the information in our file, please fill out this form and check (X) the appropriate box below or you may also use the complete Registration Form found on the table at the rear of the Church; and drop the completed form into the collection basket or drop off/mail it to the Rectory. Thank you!

Name:

Address:

City/Zip:

Telephone:

Comment:

- I am a visitor.
- I am interested in parish membership.
- Change of Address / Telephone Number.
- I am moving out of the Parish.
- I am going to the hospital.
- I would like to be visited by a priest / minister.
- Please send me the *Catholic New York*.
- I would like to learn more about the Catholic Faith.



**PRAYER TO SAINT BLAISE**

Dear bishop and lover of souls,  
you willingly bore heavy crosses in faithful  
imitation of Jesus. Similarly, with Christ-like  
compassion you cured many sufferers. Then  
after undergoing horrible torture,  
you died as a martyr for Christ.



Obtain a cure for these (describe the afflictions) ills  
If this is agreeable to God.  
Amen.